AMERICAN PUBLISHERS' CIRCULAR

AND

Literary Gazette.

ISSUED WEEKLY BY THE BOOK PUBLISHERS' ASSOCIATION.

Conducted under the direction of the Association, by CHARLES R. RODE

Communications should be addressed to THE AMERICAN PUBLISHERS' CIRCULAR, *No. 39 Walker Street, New York.*

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Extracts from New Books.

BOOK TRADE.

From Chambers's Encyclopædia.

(Continued from our last.)

In France, publishing is carried on chiefly in Paris, where there are now some extensive printing establishments, including the *Imprimerie Imperiale*, provided with machinery equal, if not superior, to any thing of the kind in London. As regards substantiality and elegance, French books occupy a place between those of Germany and England. They are, with few exceptions, done up simply in colored paper covers, for temporary service; but the ink is generally better than that used in England; and works when of a superior class are executed with a high degree of taste—the excellence of pictorial embellishments being always conspicuous. Certain voluminous and most expensive works in French, and also in the classical languages, occasionally issue from the Parisian press, and command a large sale; orders of copies for university and public libraries all over the continent tending to promote these gigantic enterprises. Although confined mainly to Paris, the business of publishing, or at least of preparing books for the Parisian market and for exportation, is carried on to a considerable extent in several provincial towns. Tours, in particular, is the seat of a large book factory—that of Messrs. Mame—in which printing, designing, engraving, and binding are all executed on the premises.

According to the returns of the Board of Trade for 1857, the following were the French imports and exports of books in 1855. Value of imports, 1,820,470 francs; of exports, 12,344,855 francs; the export trade having increased 30 per cent. since 1851. The exports are to Italy, Germany, Russia, Belgium, North America, and other countries, and a portion also comes to England. Between France and the United Kingdom there is now an international law of copyright, by which translations of works are protected in either country, when the title-page indicates that "the right of translation is reserved."

In the 17th century, various cities in the Dutch Netherlands bore a prominent place in the book-trade. At Amsterdam, some of the most beautiful editions of the classics were executed; while from Leyden, and other seats of learning, exports of works in law, theology, etc., formed at one time a prosperous commerce. In this as in other trades, it has been the fate of Holland to lose its former reputation, for in the present day its book-trade is on a comparatively poor scale. That part of the Netherlands, now known as Belgium, once under a civil and ecclesiastical despotism, which was adverse to a free press, possesses now a flourishing book-trade, mainly, we believe, on account of French being the language generally spoken. Brussels, as a kind of minor Paris, is the seat of some extensive printing and publishing concerns; at which Parisian works, as is well known, are unauthorizedly reproduced, and whence exports on a large scale are made to foreign countries. In point of appearance, Brussels editions, in all but the name, are indistinguishable from those of Paris. According to a return of the minister of finances of Belgium, the following was the import and export trade in books for 1856: Value of imports, 284,557 francs, of which 80 per cent. was from France; value of exports, 2,446,578 francs, of which 47 per cent. was to England, and 53 to all other countries.

Of the book-trade in Spain, and also in several Italian states, little can be said that is satisfactory. In the kingdom of Sardinia only is literature beginning to show signs of animation. Among Italian booksellers, generally, there is little intelligence or spirit of enterprise, and authors are in many cases compelled to be their own publishers. During the last twenty years, Germans have established bookselling houses in the principal cities, as Rome, Naples, Turin, Milan, Bologna, Florence, Venice, and Verona, also Trieste; and under their auspices, as far as local laws and usages, and the want of proper means of intercommunication, will permit, the trade may be expected to assume an organized form. Already, these intelligent foreigners have done much to keep alive a knowledge of Italian literature.

The book-trade of the United States, which is daily assuming greater proportions, has sprung up from small beginnings within the present century. As in Germany, the business of publishing is monopolized by no particular city, but is carried on successfully in various towns, chiefly throughout the northern and middle States of the Union. The following particulars respecting the trade are given in *Trübner's Bibliographical Guide to American Literature* (Lond., 1859): "In 1853 there were 355 book-publishing establishments in the United States. At present, the number is more than 400. About three-fourths of these are located in New York, Philadelphia, Baltimore, and Boston; the rest being principally in Cincinnati, Charleston, New Orleans, Buffalo, Auburn, Albany, Louisville, Chicago, St. Louis, and Hartford. There are more than 3,000 booksellers who dispense the publications of these 400 publishers, besides 6,000 or 7,000 general dealers who connect trade in books with the ordinary stock of a country store." Several of the large American publishing houses, like those of Edinburgh, unite in one establishment the whole process of book preparation and issue. The most extensive of this class is that of the Harpers, in New York, "which covers half an acre; the building alone cost £40,000; their annual sales have been estimated at 2,000,000 volumes; and they employ not far from 600 persons." At Boston and Philadelphia, there are also large publishing establishments. Of these, perhaps, the most notable is the house of Lippincott & Co., Philadelphia, from which there is said to be distributed 10 tons of literature every 24 hours. Including original works and reprints of native and foreign productions, the amount of the American book-trade was estimated in 1856 at 16,000,000 dollars. According to the authority already quoted, a change is going on in the relative proportions of British and American books published in the United States; the British works having fallen from 70 per cent. of the entire consumption in 1820, to 20 per cent. in 1856. Admitting that such is the case, the fact is notorious that by the Harpers, and the Appletons, of New York, and others, the reprinting of British copyright works is carried on to an enormous extent, in defiance of all remonstrances to the contrary, and even in disregard to the claims of those more scrupulous American publishers who pay for and import early sheets from England. The unauthorized reprint of the present work by the Appletons, affords an example of these piratical practices.*

American books are now executed with neatness and taste; their wood-cut embellishments sometimes surpass those of London; and in point of size and price, they are, for the most part, well adapted for general circulation. On account of the prevalence of education, and also the aspiring habits of the people, book-buyers of a humble position in life are greatly more numerous than they are in the United Kingdom. Looking on the American book-trade as, after all, still in its infancy, it may be expected, in the progress of events, to go on in a vastly accelerated ratio. Latterly, several English and Scotch publishers have established branches of their business in New York; and there are now some extensive American commission-houses in London—from which intercommunion happy results may be anticipated. Books are sold wholesale by written orders, trade-sales, auctions, and otherwise. Country dealers are in the habit of visiting the great book-dépôts of Boston, New York, and Philadelphia, and there personally making their selections. As previously stated, there is a large export of American books to Canada and other British possessions, in which, as yet, native literature is on a poor scale, but where there is a large and increasing number of readers.

In doing up books in cloth boards, the American binders invariably cut off the outer folds of the sheets, so as to smooth the edges of the leaves, as in English leather binding; by which process the first readers of new books are spared the trouble of cutting open the leaves. Many persons have wished to see this improvement, for such it is, introduced into England. There are still, however, prejudices to be overcome on the subject. Strange as it may appear, numbers of purchasers like to cut up the leaves with a folder as they advance through a new book or periodical, from an idea that the repeated slight interruptions heighten the pleasure of perusal. In our experience, we have known gentlemen who would not sit down to read a cut-up new book. Besides, there is a notion among buyers in England, that books with smooth-cut leaves may be second-hand, and not worth the price of new. Undoubtedly, the Americans are ahead of Europeans generally in this particular.

Notice has been taken of the constant export from Europe to the United States of quantities of high-class books to stock the great public libraries that are every where springing into existence through the

* [We deem it only just to American Publishers, to state that for works now reprinted in America, remuneration is generally made to the author or British publisher. In the case of the present work, the Messrs. C. refused to enter into any negotiation for its republication in this country.—D. A. & Co.]

liberality of State Legislatures, or the munificence of private individuals. There is, however, a traffic of a similar kind, more especially from England, in execution of orders for second-hand books from dealers who have establishments in the principal cities of the Union, and through whose agency persons of refined tastes are becoming acquainted with the aspect of our older literary treasures. One of these second-hand book-stores in Philadelphia, which we visited in 1853, was on as extensive a scale as any thing of the kind in London, or Edinburgh, while the choice which it presented would have come quite up to the delicate perceptions of the bibliomaniac.

Literary Intelligence.

TRADE SALES.—The New York and Philadelphia Trade Sales are announced respectively for March 28th, and April 9th. We have received the catalogue of the former, a large volume of 402 pp., some pages more than that of last spring. It contains 122 invoices of books, 5 of stereotype plates, and 12 of stationery, and includes the names usually found as contributors.

OBITUARY.—Among recent deaths, we notice that of Mr. S. Saunders, of the well-known publishing firm, Saunders, Otley & Co., Conduit Street, London. Mr. Saunders was not only the publisher of the works of Sir E. Lytton Bulwer, Capt. Marryat, Mr. G. James, Lady Blessington, and numerous other celebrated writers, but also the personal friend of most of the literary celebrities of his time. He retired from active connection with the business some years since, but the name of the firm is still retained by his successors. He died at the ripe age of 80 years.

New Publications

Received at the Office of the AMERICAN PUBLISHERS' CIRCULAR.

[In the following List will be found the names of such books only as have been sent to this Journal. The titles of all books as they are issued will be regularly inserted in the proper column.]

HENRY HOYT issues "Daisy Deane," by C. E. K., author of "Grace Hale,' "Our Father's House," etc. Also, five juveniles by Catherine D. Bell, respectively entitled, "Ned the Shepherd Boy;" "Willie and Charlie; or, the Way to be Happy;" "Jenny Carter; or, Trust in God;" "Philip and Bessie; or, Wisdom's Ways;" and "Jane Thorn; or, the Head or the Heart." These little volumes, as well as the first mentioned, are neatly got up—"Daisy Deane" containing a number of illustrations, and the others each one engraved frontispiece.

GEORGE G. & LEMUEL N. IDE, Claremont, N. H., publish a small volume, in limp cloth, entitled "Forms of Prayer to be used in Families, as set forth in the Prayer-Book: to which are added some Occasional Prayers and Thanksgivings, with Hymns for Family Devotion, chiefly from the same source."

FOWLER & WELLS publish, in pamphlet form, "Diseases of the Throat and Lungs," by R. T. Trall, M. D. The Preface says: "The great demand for the articles of Dr. Trall on Diseases of the Throat and Lungs, while in course of publication in *The Water-Cure Journal*, has induced the publishers to reissue them in a more convenient form for reference and circulation. We can entertain no doubt that the author has clearly traced this very prevalent and rapidly increasing class of diseases to their true origin, and pointed out the best, and the only rational, plan of prevention or cure. The wide-spread distribution, therefore, of this little book can hardly fail to save thousands of valuable lives, while its teachings, if generally adopted by society, would at once arrest the fearful ravages of consumption and its kindred maladies, which now threaten, ere long, to ruin, if not exterminate, the human race."

LEARY, GETZ & Co. have got out "The Old Log School-House, furnitured with Incidents of School Life, Notes of Travel, Poetry, Hints to Teachers and Pupils, and Miscellaneous Sketches," by Rev. Alexander Clark, editor of "Clark's School Visitor." The volume contains a number of engravings.

W. A. TOWNSEND & Co. favor us with the first instalment of their new and beautiful edition, which they call appropriately "Household," of the complete works of Charles Dickens. They are very neat in form and appearance, departing somewhat from the orthodox American style of binding, and varying agreeably from the conventional standard. The series will contain illustrations by F. O. C. Darley, and John Gilbert. The present volumes, four in number, contain "The Pickwick Papers," with spirited engravings on steel, introducing those names which the marvellous genius of the author has made imperishable, Pickwick, Sam Weller, Stiggins, Winkle, old Weller and his better half, Tupman and Snodgrass, whom to mention is to revive most delightful recollections.

G. P. PUTNAM is now publishing "Papers for the People, edited by William and Robert Chambers," in semi-monthly parts. They will be published in 48 parts, each illustrated with one or more engravings, and comprise a list of most interesting and attractive subjects. Also in the same style a complete edition of Irving's Works, in 26 parts, each containing two engravings on steel. They are very neatly got up and sold at 25 cents. The publisher will send specimen numbers on receipt of 15 cents in stamps.

New Announcements since our Last Issue.

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E. C. & J. Biddle & Co.

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Gould & Lincoln.

The Life and Times of John Huss; or, the Bohemian Reformation of the Fifteenth Century, by E. H. Gillett. 2 vols., royal 8vo.

The Headship of Christ, and the Rights of the Christian People: a Collection of Personal Portraitures, Historical and Descriptive Sketches, and Essays, originally contributed to the Edinburgh *Witness;* with the author's celebrated Letter to Lord Brougham, by Hugh Miller, author of "Testimony of the Rocks," "The Old Red Sandstone," etc., etc. Edited, with a Preface, by Peter Bayne.

Music of the Bible; or, Explanatory Notes upon those Passages of the Sacred Scriptures which relate to Music; with a brief view of Hebrew Poetry, by Enoch Hutchinson.

William Gowans.

The Genius and Character of Robert Burns: an Essay and Criticism of his Life and Writings, by Professor Wilson ("Christopher North").

Dick & Fitzgerald.

The Remarkable Scenes in the Lives of Remarkable Women, by J. F. Smith.

List of New Works.

AMERICAN.

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